

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 20, 2006

The Honorable George W. Bush
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As the administration prepares its budget proposals for fiscal year 2007, we express our strong support for the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). We encourage the administration to propose funding for this vital program at traditional levels and continue to have CDBG administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This proposal would help maintain the long standing and productive partnership between the federal government and localities for building sustainable communities across the nation.

For fiscal year 2006, the administration proposed consolidating CDBG and a host of other programs into a new block grant to be administered by the Department of Commerce. This new initiative would have included a significant reduction in funding below the combined fiscal year 2005 funding for the consolidated programs.

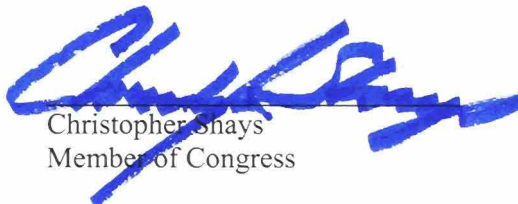
While this proposal generated an important dialogue about CDBG, both the House and the Senate, in a bipartisan manner, strongly reaffirmed support for CDBG by funding the program at \$4.2 billion and maintaining the current administration of CDBG at HUD. In separate letters to congressional leaders, over 180 Members of the House and 55 Senators expressed their overwhelming support and commitment to maintaining this critical program.

The CDBG program has been a vital tool in helping to rebuild communities for the last thirty years. As you mentioned in your speech in New Orleans on January 12, CDBG is playing an important role in helping to aid recovery in the Gulf States in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. This is but the most recent example of how CDBG empowers communities to remedy local problems, benefiting those with the greatest need. CDBG is a proven program that delivers results, is valued by local leaders throughout the nation, and has bipartisan support in both the House and Senate. We strongly support this important program and urge you to provide traditional levels of funding in the administration's 2007 budget request.

Sincerely,



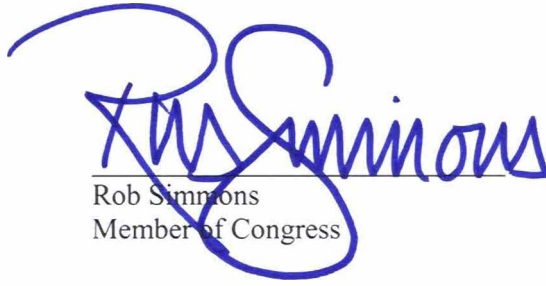
Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



Christopher Shays
Member of Congress



Todd Russell Platts
Member of Congress



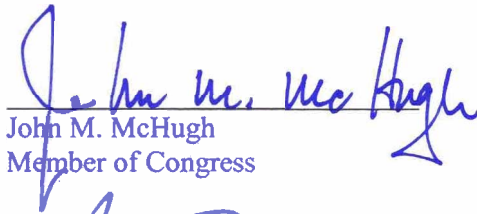
Rob Simmons
Member of Congress



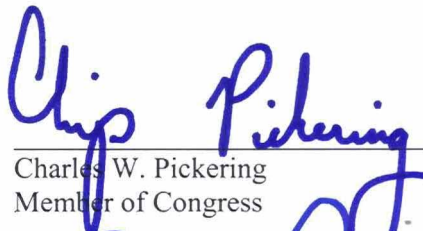
Charles W. Dent
Member of Congress



Thaddeus McCotter
Member of Congress



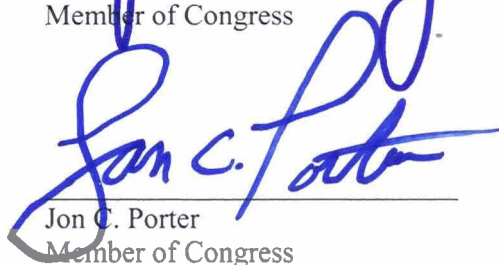
John M. McHugh
Member of Congress



Charles W. Pickering
Member of Congress



Jim Saxton
Member of Congress



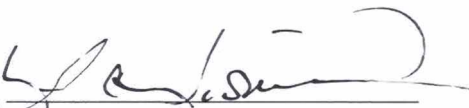
Jon C. Porter
Member of Congress



Nancy L. Johnson
Member of Congress



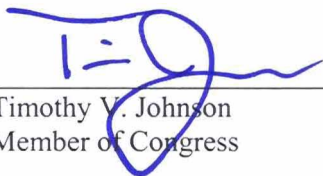
Vito Fossella
Member of Congress



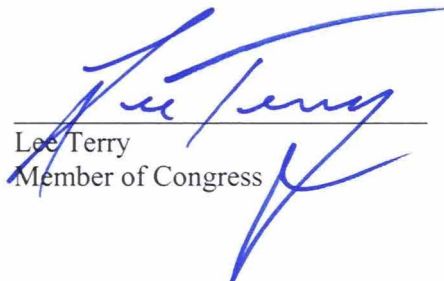
Steven C. LaTourette
Member of Congress



Tom Osborne
Member of Congress



Timothy V. Johnson
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Lee Terry
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Ed Whitfield
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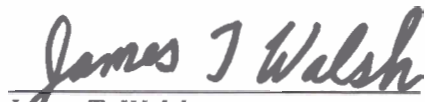
Phil Gingrey
Member of Congress



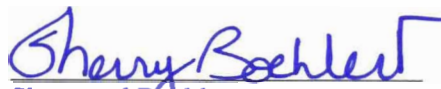
Charles F. Bass
Member of Congress



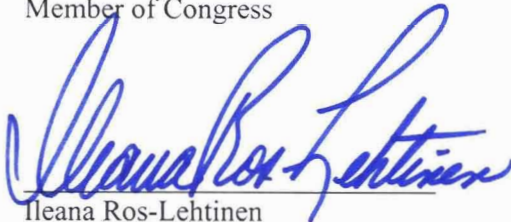
Jim Gerlach
Member of Congress



James T. Walsh
Member of Congress



Sherwood Boehlert
Member of Congress



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress



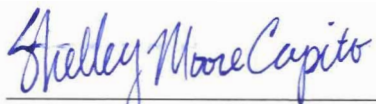
Joe Schwarz
Member of Congress



Geoff Davis
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Deborah Pryce
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Shelley Moore Capito
Member of Congress



Fred Upton
Member of Congress



Denny Rehberg
Member of Congress



Carl Weldon
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